

DD/S  
50-0102

15 JAN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT : Cornerstone Ceremony - New  
Headquarters Building

REFERENCE : Memo from DD/S to D/L dated  
5 January 1959, same subject

1. This memorandum recommends action to be taken by the DCI and DD/S in paragraph 6.

2. Decision has already been made as to the inscription for the Cornerstone and the Architect-Engineer has included a design in the plans and specifications for the Superstructure Contract. This same Contract will provide for Contractor participation such as the erection of a stand for the Cornerstone Ceremony.

3. The building will have reached a point where the Cornerstone can be installed in its permanent location by late Summer or early Fall of this year. In selecting a date for the ceremony, it would be desirable to have the event fall on a date having particular significance for the Agency such as an Anniversary Date. The Agency's Anniversary Date is September 18 but this falls on Friday. Selection of any workday has certain disadvantages in that it would either be necessary to excuse employees generally to attend the ceremony or sharply restrict attendance. Transportation would be a problem and it would probably be necessary to provide some kind of bus transportation to move an appreciable number of our people from their office locations to the site. Another disadvantage in selecting a workday for the ceremony would be that by September the Superstructure Contractor will have somewhere between 700 and 900 men on the job. Because of these facts and in view of the extremely high employee interest in the new building, a Saturday date seems best. Accordingly, it is suggested that Saturday, September 19 be selected for the Cornerstone Ceremony subject of course to arrangements for the President to attend on that date.

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4. In addition to determining the date for the ceremony, arrangements must be made for the following:

- a. Attendance by the President.
- b. Select and invite Clergymen to officiate at the ceremony.
- c. Compile the guest list and arrange a seating plan.
- d. Provide for a Service Band to furnish music.
- e. Furnishings and Equipment.
- f. Ceremony Program content and format.
- g. Collect material to be placed in Cornerstone Box.
- h. Publicity releases.
- i. Printing and Engraving (Programs and Invitations).
- j. Chairs and Public Address System.
- k. Transportation.
- l. Traffic
- m. Parking

Attached as Appendix "A" is a discussion of each of these items.

5. Obviously arrangements for the President's attendance should be made by the DCI and the Clergymen selected to officiate should be invited by the Director. The guest list should be compiled under the direction of someone in the Director's Office. Several of the remaining items are such as to be most readily accomplished by the Building Planning Staff, particularly where physical facilities and arrangements with the Contractor are involved. The BPS also has contacts with Public Buildings Service and the National Park Service that would be of value in connection with the ceremony.

The National Park Service has had considerable experience with ceremonies of this nature and their advice and equipment are available to us. Matters pertaining to publicity and history (material to be placed in Cornerstone Box) are properly for accomplishment by the Historical Staff.

6. Specific recommendations are as follows:

- a. That the Cornerstone Ceremony be held September 19.
- b. That the Director arrange for the attendance of the President at the ceremony, select and invite Clergymen to officiate and designate someone in his office to compile a list of guests to be invited to the ceremony.
- c. The BPS be assigned responsibility for accomplishment or coordination of the remaining items subject to policy guidance by the Steering Committee. In carrying out this responsibility the BPS would call upon the Liaison Officers, the Historical Staff, Printing Services Division and other elements as may be appropriate for such assistance as may be necessary.
- d. Authorize the BPS to arrange with the National Park Service, on a reimbursable basis if necessary, for their assistance including the use of equipment such as chairs and public address systems.
- e. Allot the sum of \$5,000. from regular Agency funds (other than Building Funds) for necessary expenses for equipment rental, hauling, labor, printing and engraving, etc. The amount above does not cover salaries of Agency personnel who will devote some portion of their time to this undertaking.

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Attachment

  
Acting Director of Logistics

Distribution:  
✓ 0 & ② - BPS  
2 - DD/S  
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APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date

L. K. White  
Deputy Director  
(Signature)

APPENDIX "A"

DISCUSSION OF CORNERSTONE CEREMONY TASKS AS LISTED IN  
PARAGRAPH 4 OF MEMORANDUM TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SUPPORT)

- a. Attendance by the President - self explanatory.
- b. Clergymen: It is customary to begin the ceremony with an Invocation and to close with a Benediction. The Chaplain of the Senate performed both services at the dedication ceremonies of the AEC headquarters building, but the general practice is to have outstanding clergymen from the Catholic and Protestant Churches for this purpose.
- c. Groups and individuals as follows are suggested for consideration as special guests:
  - (1) The Chairmen and members of Congressional Committees concerned with CIA.
  - (2) Members of the National Security Council.
  - (3) The Director of the National Security Agency.
  - (4) The Administrator of General Services.
  - (5) The Architects (Harrison & Abramovitz).
  - (6) Consultants to the Architect.
  - (7) Key officials of other agencies associated with CIA.
  - (8) Representatives of the press.

The covered platform usually provides only a few seats. At the State Department ceremony the platform contained twelve chairs and accommodated the President, the Secretary of State, and some GSA and State Department Officials. On this basis, the platform for the CIA ceremony might accommodate the President, the DCI, the DDCI, the Administrator of General Services, the Commissioner, Public Buildings Service, those CIA officials closely connected with the building project, and clergymen invited to officiate at the ceremony.

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Reserved seats in the audience should be set aside for the Architects, the Contractor, special guests listed above, and for CIA officials.

It is assumed that Agency employees would be invited to attend and since this is a public function, members of their families. Such invitation would be by notice or announcement. Unreserved seats would be available on a "first come" basis.

d. Music: The program usually includes a prelude, the National Anthem and a postlude. The United States Marine Band serves this purpose at most of the ceremonies but other Service bands are available.

e. Furnishings and Equipment: Other items or "props" and services must be considered. A contractor's assistance is necessary for handling the stone and for furnishing supplies and equipment needed. Silver trowels are generally used and sometimes arrangements can be made to use a trowel of historical significance. For example, State borrowed the trowel used by George Washington when he laid the cornerstone of the Capitol. This trowel was used by President Eisenhower to lay the State Department cornerstone and Secretary Dulles assisted him using a silver trowel especially made and inscribed for the purpose. The Washington trowel rested on a portable desk designed by Thomas Jefferson and used by him to draft the Declaration of Independence.

f. Program: Program formats vary considerably, some being quite simple and consisting of a single folded page covering only the ceremony. For the larger construction projects, the program is usually in a nicely printed brochure and this is suggested for this Agency. Such a brochure can serve as a means of recognizing the contribution made by firms and individuals whose names, due to custom and space limitations, are not usually inscribed on the building cornerstone. These would include the consultants to the Architect, such as Syska & Hennessy, Edwards & Hjorth, Clarke & Rapuano, Frederick W. Post, etc. The Architect might also wish to list members of his staff who have taken part in the work on our building. Possibly the General Services Administration might wish to list some of their officials who are concerned with our project. In addition, it is suggested that consideration be given, within the limits of security, to recognition of the work of those members of CIA who have served in various capacities in connection with the planning of the building.

Pictures of the President and the Director, a reproduction of the rendering of the building, a description of the building, and a list of the documents placed behind the cornerstone would be appropriate for inclusion in the program brochure.

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In view of the active employee interest in the new building there is no question but that each one would want a copy of the program. This distribution will require a large printing, possibly [REDACTED]

g. Material to be placed in cornerstone box: The material to be deposited behind the cornerstone must be identified and assembled. This might include the following: Newspapers for the day of the cornerstone laying, the Act establishing CIA, the Authorization Act and Appropriation Acts for the new building, drawings of the building, aerial photographs of the site, a short history of the Agency, a picture and biographic information of the Director of Central Intelligence, a list of past Directors, a copy of the program for the cornerstone ceremony, and other appropriate items such as (declassified) intelligence reports. Recent custom is to microfilm material such as this, seal it in plastic and deposit it in a metal box.

h. Publicity releases - self explanatory.

i. Invitations: These are for the special guests and are engraved. An R.S.V.P. is customary.

j. Chairs and Public Address System: The National Park Service, because of its custody of public lands, has people who are quite experienced with the handling of this type of ceremony and they have also acquired a considerable amount of the equipment needed. This includes speakersstands, chairs and public address system. This equipment is available to us and the National Park Service has experienced personnel available on a reimbursable basis to assist with the arrangements.

k. Transportation - self explanatory.

l. Traffic: Arrange with local police for assistance in handling traffic.

m. Parking: The South Parking Lot and some of the roads on the site now have a gravel surface. Access to the site and parking space is therefore available.